

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8 and 9 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-3 have been withdrawn from consideration and claim 8 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe or Kanai in view of Haraguchi et al., all of record, or as unpatentable over Haraguchi et al. in view of Watanabe or Kanai.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In Applicant's previous response, it was argued:

Such packaging paper, when it is wound around on a shaft member 16 produces a condition wherein the compressing force added to the end of the shaft member will be increased. In order to accommodate such condition, the notches 21A, which are disposed circumferentially about the inside wall of the roll are provided with a thin portion defined by leaving the outer portion of each engaged portion uncut and the inner portion cut, and removed, as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

By means of this configuration, the thin portion is able to easily bend and has greater flexibility as compared with the uncut portion so that it is better able to absorb the aforementioned compressing force. Additionally, when the packaging paper is wound around the shaft member, a swelled or expanded condition is produced in the region containing the folded edges of the paper. Thus, the flexible thin portion of the respective notches is able, due to such flexibility, to prevent or restrain the swell of the concerned end of the paper roll.

The claimed notch configuration is benefitted because, when the outside surface of the notch forming the thin portion remains uncut, the inner and outer peripheries of the paper roll are maintained circular along the region of the paper folds as opposed

to being uneven were the wall closing the respective notches not flexible.

Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to recite that each recess forms a thinner, more flexible portion of the wall than portions of the wall between at least two of the recesses.

None of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests this feature, and the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 8-9, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/926,029**
Response to Office Action dated June 21, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



William L. Brooks
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla

Atty. Docket No. **010911**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

H:\HOME\letitia\WLB\01\010911\amendment sep 2004